

HOUSE No. 757

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, petition of Anne M. Gobi and others relative to the protection of sustainable farming. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Anne M. Gobi	Robert L. Rice, Jr.
Denis E. Guyer	Lewis G. Evangelidis
Todd M. Smola	Barbara A. L'Italian
Christine E. Canavan	James B. Eldridge
Geraldo Alicea	Mary E. Grant
Denise Provost	Ellen Story
Stephen R. Canessa	Viriato Manuel deMacedo

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF SUSTAINABLE FARMING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts finds the following:—
- 2 (A) This Commonwealth has entered into agreements with the
- 3 federal government of the United States, and otherwise may have
- 4 participated in establishing a National Animal Identification System
- 5 (hereinafter “NAIS”).
- 6 (B) Neither the United States Department of Agriculture nor the
- 7 Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (hereinafter
- 8 “MDAR”) has demonstrated any scientific findings that the NAIS
- 9 will prevent the spread of diseases of animal origin to humans or to
- 10 other animals, or will benefit animal or public health.
- 11 (C) Sustainable animal husbandry practices, which include ade-
- 12 quate space, appropriate feed, and access to pasture, fresh air and
- 13 sunlight are important in promoting animal health and thus pre-
- 14 venting the spread of diseases of animal origin.
- 15 (D) The establishment of NAIS is detrimental to small and sus-
- 16 tainable animal husbandry farming operations.

1 SECTION 1. Cooperative Agreement Termination.
2 MDAR shall withdraw any pending application for USDA NAIS
3 Cooperative Agreement funding for FY 2007; or, in the event that
4 the USDA already has granted funding and a Cooperative Agree-
5 ment for FY 2007 already has been executed, MDAR shall return
6 any FY 2007 funding to the USDA and rescind any existing Cooper-
7 ative Agreement for FY 2007.

1 SECTION 2. Citizens Data Upload Termination.
2 MDAR shall immediately cease sending data on the Common-
3 wealth's citizens and animal premises to the USDA National
4 Premises Information Repository.

1 SECTION 3. Notification and Data Removal.
2 MDAR shall:—(a) immediately notify all citizens whose
3 premises information previously has been submitted to the USDA
4 National Premises Information Repository without their specific
5 authorization; and (b) develop a procedure with the USDA whereby
6 such Massachusetts data will be expunged from the USDA National
7 Premises Information Repository.